

When will the Sun Rise for Children in India?

Advocacy for Child related Policies in India and Gujarat State



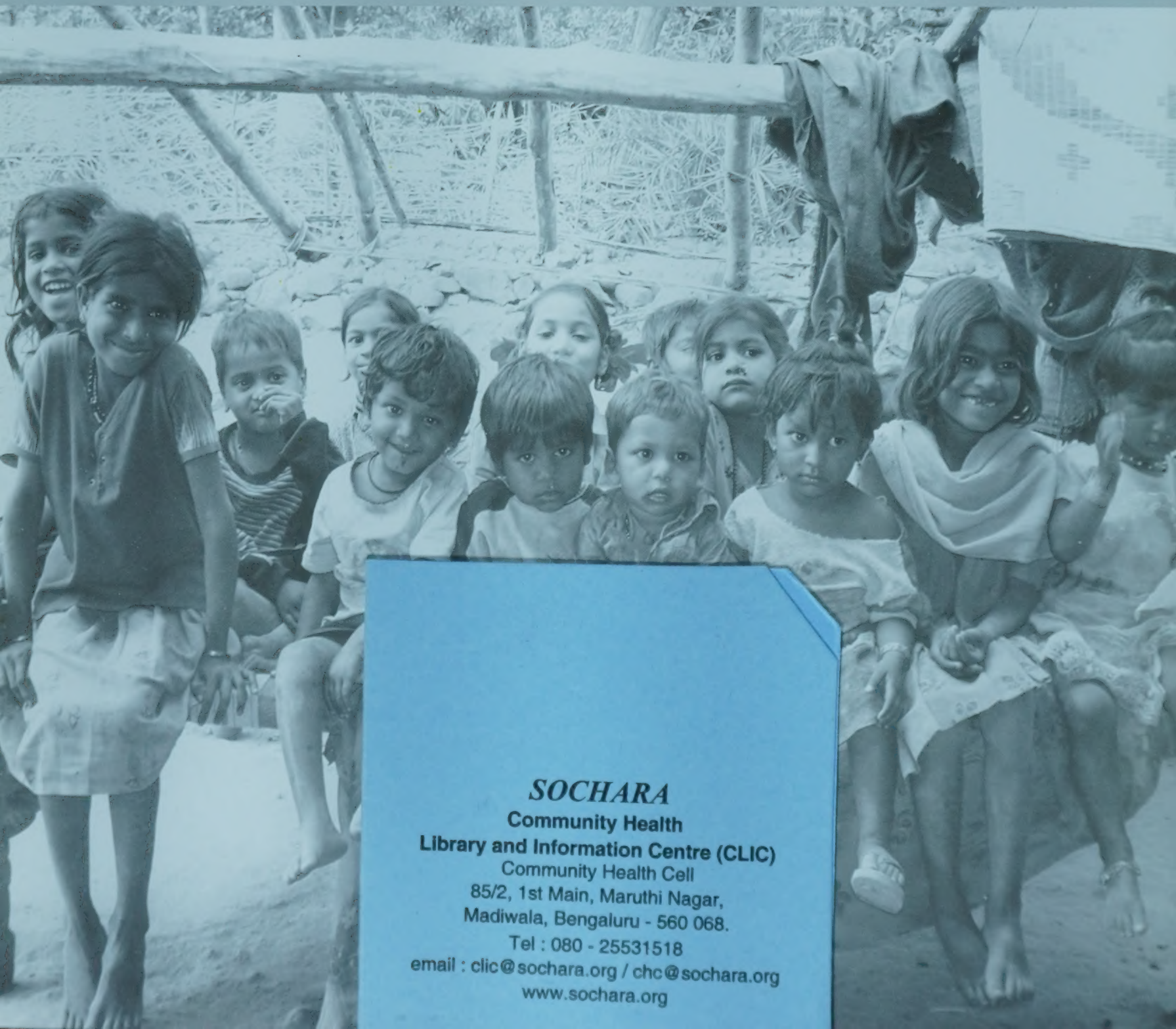
CHETNA

For Women Young people Children

December 2012

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*Investing in Early Childhood Development
Helps set the stage for lifelong development,
Improves equity,
Is a cost-Effective Strategy for Developing
Human Capital*



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Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness

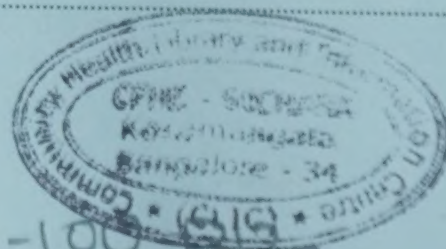
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Abbreviations

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| BCC-Behaviour Change Communication |
| CBO-Community Based Organisation |
| CECED-Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development |
| CHETNA-Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness |
| CRCG- Child Rights Collective, Gujarat |
| CSO-Civil Society Organisation |
| ECCE-Early Childhood Care and Education |
| ECCD-Early Childhood Care and Development |
| FORCES-Forum for Crèches and Child Care Services |
| FYP-Five Year Plan |
| GCERT- Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training |
| GoG-Government of Gujarat |
| Gol-Government of India |
| IACR-India Alliance for Child Rights |
| ICDS-Integrated Child Development Services (Scheme) |
| IMR-Infant Mortality Rate |
| MLA-Member of Legislative Assembly |
| MMR-Maternal Mortality Rate |
| MoHRD-Ministry of Human Resource Development |
| MoWCD or MWCD - Ministry of Women and Child Development |
| MP-Member of Parliament |
| NCPCR-National Commission for Protection of Child Rights |
| NFHS-National Family Health Survey |
| NGO-Non Government Organisation |
| NIPCCD-National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development |
| NPAC-National Plan of Action for Children |
| NPC-National Policy for Children |
| SPAC-State Plan of Action for Children |
| UNCRC-United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child |
| UNGASS-United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children |

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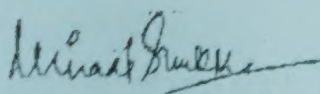


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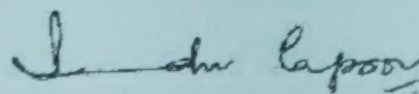
Advocacy for Child Policies has been a collective effort of several individuals, organisations, alliances and networks, which was a great learning experience for CHETNA. We at CHETNA would like to acknowledge and extend our heartfelt gratitude to several individuals and organisations who have contributed to and made it possible to bring out this document.

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- Dr. Shreeranjana, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Mr. Vivek Joshi, Joint Secretary, MoWCD, GOI and Dr. D.K. Sikri, Former Secretary, MoWCD, GOI for their patience, trust and faith in our commitment towards children and incorporating civil society, including CHETNA recommendations into the draft policy
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1 Introduction

The first six to eight years of a child's life is a foundation of human life. Since the pace of development in these years is extremely rapid, this formative period has a decisive and lasting influence on a child's health and well-being. Research has shown that what happens to a child in the initial years of its life, and the opportunities provided, are crucial in determining lifelong outcomes. This most crucial and formative stage in a child's development needs specialized and urgent attention.

With a view to ensure that the foundation of human life is strong, several governments all over the world have made commitments to children's wellbeing by framing policies, announcing schemes and implementing programmes related to health, nutrition, education and care of children. Parents and the civil society have also contributed to the development of children.

There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. Nelson Mandela

Post-independent scenario in India reveals that beginning with the Constitution of India in 1950, various provisions have been made for children in different policies, plans and conventions. (Please refer Annexure A for details). A critical review of these significant documents indicates that age group covered by different policies is different. (Only recent policies and schemes have agreed to the description of a child as any human being below the age of 18 years). Another constraint evident in some of these policies is that they deal with a specific aspect i.e. health or nutrition or education in a compartmentalised manner rather than addressing the comprehensive needs of the child. Rights based approach is also missing in majority of these documents. These have affected the ground level implementation of the policies and the desired impact on health and development of vulnerable groups, especially children.

Recent advocacy for review of existing policies and need for sensitive policies brought forth the realisation that children's issues, especially the needs of young children, are deeply neglected areas of public policy in India and calls for stronger affirmation of the fundamental rights of young children. Hence came the initiative by the GoI, supported by the CSOs and NGOs of framing a full-fledged policy on Early Childhood, Care and Education (ECCE), which would encompass all the aspects of a child below six years including mother's/care giver's involvement during these significant years.

"If a child is a national asset, it is the duty of the State to look after the child with a view to ensuring full development of its personality."

Vijayalakshmi Balakrishnan, Child Rights and Development Activist

Since its inception in 1980, Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness (CHETNA), an Ahmedabad based NGO, has endeavoured towards children's health and wellbeing through capacity building programmes, forging partnership with diverse organisations and leading networks, developing learning resource material for behaviour change (BCC), publishing documents highlighting field based experiences and innovative approaches, conducting action research and advocating for the cause of reaching the unreached child. All these efforts have made significant impact in terms of creating awareness, bridging the gap between myths and realities and empowering children, young people and women. However, in order to make greater impact, to cover the huge population of children in India (158.7 million children below six years of age as per Census-2011), the commitment of developing an ECCE Policy especially from the Government of India was critical.

CHETNA's concerted work on Child Rights during the first decade of the twenty first century culminated into advocacy on children's policies- their content, finalisation and implementation. This document is an effort towards capturing CHETNA's efforts of advocacy for the ECCE Policy and other child related policies in India and Gujarat state over the period of three years i. e. from the year 2009 to 2012.

The Policies in Focus

During the given period, along with other networks and partners, CHETNA has focussed on advocating the following policies:

- National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy, GoI, 2012 and the same policy at state level in Gujarat.
- National Policy for Children, 2012 (NPC, 1974 renewed and revised).
- State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC) based on the actualisation of the UNCRC in Gujarat State.
- Twelfth Five Year Plan at National and State Levels (inclusion of health, nutrition, education and development issues of young children).

2 Why Advocate for Child related Policies?

The Indian Constitution accords equal rights to all citizens including children. The UNCRC, which was ratified by India in 1992, also considers children to be important citizens of a nation having equal rights as adults. Yet these commitments do not necessarily result in either actualisation of children's rights or adequate budget allocations. For example, alarming cases of violence against children are reported every day. In the year 2006-07, only 1.66% of the Union Budget was allocated for children under six. Despite universalisation and focus in Eleventh Five Year Plan, the quality of services under the GoI's flagship ICDS Programme has suffered.

- According to Ministry of Women and Child Development, as December 31, 2010, 13.6 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWC) were sanctioned and 12.4 lakhs operational. Another 1.6 lakhs need to be operationalised to reach the stage of universalisation coverage as per Supreme Court order¹.
- According to the National Family Health Survey-III, only 28 per cent of the targeted children received any services from the AWC².
- Almost 73.5 per cent children under the age of 6 years did not receive any supplementary food from an AWC in the 12 months preceding the survey, about 80 per cent did not receive health check-ups in the AWCs².

Source: 1 www.wcd.nic.in, 2 NFHS-III, 2005-06 and Annual Report of MWCD, 2009-10

The current data on survival, health and nutritional status of children is alarming. (Please refer **Annexure B** for the status of children)

Children contribute to the progress of the society, yet they cannot take part in the political process or use the legal system due to their age. Therefore, it is our duty to protect young children. Young Children need our utmost attention because of the developmental reasons given below:

Children who start behind stay behind

The pace of development during the first six years is extremely rapid. About 90% of the brain growth takes place by the time the child is three years old. (Please refer the Figure in Annexure-C)

Inadequate and negligent care during early years may result in stunted growth, undernutrition and health hazards during later years.

Every third malnourished child in the world lives in India and 150 million children are at risk of becoming malnourished.

- Developmentally appropriate early stimulation programmes (for 0-3 year olds) and ECCE programmes (for 3-6 year olds), with integrated nutrition and health components are a critical investment for enhancing elementary education outcomes; laying a strong foundation for cumulative lifelong learning and human development and also for intergenerational benefit towards ensuring social inclusion and equity. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) supports children's survival, growth, development and learning - including health, nutrition and hygiene, and cognitive, social, physical and emotional development- from birth to entry into primary school in formal, informal and non- formal settings (Source: Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2007, UNESCO).
- Child sensitive policies and need based programmes can ensure equality and provide children with the opportunity to optimal growth and development and learn to be responsible citizens.
- Being one of the most vulnerable groups, children are also subject to torture, commercial exploitation, humiliation and neglect and need our protection.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is an indispensable foundation for lifelong learning and development, and has critical impact on success at the primary stage of education. It therefore becomes imperative to accord priority attention to ECCE and invest adequately by providing commensurate resources.

Draft National ECCE Policy, GoI, 2012.

3 Goals and Objectives of Advocacy Efforts by CHETNA

Goal:

To ensure inclusion of concerns related to comprehensive development of children in child related policies and persuade the Central and State governments to speed up finalization and announcement of these policies.

Objectives:

- To contribute to the formulation of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Policy at the national and state level. (and include the **development** aspect in it).
- To recommend inputs on health, nutrition and education of the young child in the renewed National Policy for Children and in the Twelfth Five Year Plan document at the national and state level.
- To persuade the GoG to revise and announce the State Plan of Action for Children.
- To elicit support of the network partners and others to ensure commitment of the central and the state governments to put the child policies in place.
- To engage in various approaches of Advocacy and to analyze their efficacy.

4 Advocacy-a Joint Effort

Advocacy efforts gain strength and momentum if it is a joint effort of several organisations. In this advocacy endeavour, CHETNA's partners have been: Forum for Crèches and Child Care Services (FORCES) at national level and leading its Gujarat chapter, Child Rights Collective Gujarat (CRCG), and India Alliance for Child Rights (IACR). CHETNA also contributed in the Right to Food Campaign to strengthen the nutrition component in child policies. Invited by the Planning Commission, GoI, CHETNA also contributed to the Twelfth FYP (2012-17) in the capacity of a member of the Steering Committee on Women's Agency and Child Rights as well as other sub-groups.



5 A Glimpse at the Advocacy Processes:

Advocacy is a political process, which aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy can include various approaches/strategies; confrontational, engagement and many activities that a person or organisation undertakes. These may include dialogue with policy makers and policy influencers, media campaigns, public speaking and creating and documenting evidence.

CHETNA used various approaches primarily focusing on **ENGAGEMENT** with stakeholders in order to advocate for the child related policies. CHETNA played a lead role in some; focusing on nutrition and health issues as well as spearheading the state level consultative processes, while contributing in national level processes. (Please refer Annexure-D for the detailed activities undertaken by CHETNA with diverse stakeholders at State, National and International level)



- *Dialogue* with the Government Officers at the national and state level; Ministry/Department of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Department of Primary and Higher Education (MoHRD), Planning Commission and Department of General Administration (Planning) at national and state levels and Members of Parliament (MPs) about the need to initiate, finalise and announce the Child related Policies.
- *Follow up by e mails and phone calls* with the Government Officers to expedite the process of putting the policies in place.
- *Conducting and contributing in Workshops and Consultations* (at national and state levels) related to health, nutrition and ECCE and present the recommendations evolved from field based experiences and evidences to the Government for inclusion in the Children's Policies.
- *Capacity Building* of the NGO partners and the state functionaries of FORCES to create common understanding of ECCE and enhance advocacy skills.
- *Collaborating with network partners*, academic institutions, media and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to generate consensus to include relevant content in the draft policies.
- *Raising Questions in the Parliament* through elected Members of Parliament (MPs) of Rajya Sabha (upper house) about IMR, schemes related to children and their current status.
- *Sharing CHETNA's Advocacy efforts and experiences on ECCE at International forums* such as World Forum Foundation on ECCE and elicit views of the delegates to enrich the same.
- *Contributing in the Approach Paper of the Twelfth Five Year Plan* as a core group member of National NGO Child Rights Coalition/India Alliance for Child Rights Consortium and as a member of Steering Committee on Women's Agency and Child Rights and other sub-groups constituted by the Planning Commission.
- *Pursuing Media Advocacy* by providing field-based data and field exposure on children's issues.

6 Impact of the Advocacy Processes

Various efforts made by CHETNA in collaboration with its network partners created diverse impact at different times on various policies as described below:

Health, nutrition and development components found prominent space and strengthened in the ECCE Policy, National Policy for Children and Twelfth FYP. Similarly Life Cycle approach and continuum of care, comprehensive preventive and promotive health care, issue of girl child were integrated in policy documents

Guiding Principles of the national ECCE policy recognised the following components:

- a. Holistic Approach- *"It should also ensure synergy between the psychosocial, health and nutritional aspects which are interdependent"*
- b. A Convergent Approach and continuum of care- *"ECCE being a holistic concept is influenced by multiple factors that impinge on the development of the child. There is a clear recognition that women and their young children are intimately linked, particularly during the period of 0-6 years. The holistic development of a child would also require availability of effective basic services of water, sanitation and quality health care, which are all integral to ECCE. Therefore ECE services will have to be firmly linked to strategies and programmes for employment, rural development and women's empowerment".*

The issue of malnutrition gained substantial visibility at Gujarat state and at the national level

The Government of Gujarat announced the State Nutrition Mission and invited CHETNA to organise a state level workshop to generate civil society recommendations for its effective implementation. CHETNA developed a Strategy Paper as a part of the documentation of the Workshop.

Portion concerning care, education, health, nutrition and holistic development of the young child has been incorporated in the Twelfth Five Year Plan

For example the Twelfth Five Year Plan has identified the following in their priority list

- Updation of the National Policy For Children in harmony with the Twelfth Plan.
- Development and implementation of National/ State/District Plans of Action for Children, with

monitored outcomes, based on the updated policy, building on the Twelfth Plan.

- Focused interventions to improve the Child Sex Ratio, within an overall National Strategy for Care and Protection of the Girl Child.

The Plan also mentions about ICDS strengthening and restructuring, in mission mode, with flexibility in implementation.

- Repositioning AWCs as vibrant child friendly ECD centres, owned by women and communities and with piloting of AWCs cum crèches, linked to ICDS restructuring. Models of MGNREGA/ICDS AWC cum crèche convergence are also envisaged.
- Redesign of the Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme, with different models.
- The ICDS programme wherein ECCE has a strong base has been restructured and put into the mission mode. (Wide letter no.1-8/2012-CD-1 dated October 22, 2012-Sub.: Strengthening and Restructuring of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS Scheme)). The detailed document states that-"the proposal to strengthening and restructuring ICDS including implementing ICDS in a Mission mode in 12th Five Year Plan has been considered and accepted by GoI".
- Rights based approach interwoven into some policies. A Rights' based approach is integrated as one of the Guiding principles; the National Policy for Children reaffirms the State's commitment to the Rights based approach. The National ECCE policy states that-"Every child therefore has the right to get an enabling and stimulating environment for her growth and development during early childhood".
- A nation-wide information, education and communication campaign was launched by Hon. Minister, Women and Child Development on November 19, 2012.

7 Current Status of the Child related Policies

- The draft of the national ECCE Policy is in place and is with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI to forward it to the Cabinet Committee of the Parliament for approval. The Policy is expected to be announced by the end of the current financial year as mentioned by the Secretary, MWCD, GoI.
- MWCD document: *Five Year Strategic Plan (2011-2016) Towards a New Dawn Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India* has included; "Within the context of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), preparing a National ECCE Policy Framework along with the implementation plan, establishing a National Child Development Resource Centre, developing a curriculum, activity booklet and Pre-School Education Kit as well as quality capacity building and monitoring and evaluation measures will be a priority for MWCD".
- At State level, the draft of the ECCE Policy is yet to be finalized in light of the new national ECCE Policy.
- The revised draft of the National Policy for Children, 2012 is ready for presentation to the Cabinet Committee of the Parliament for approval.
- The State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC) of the GoG was shelved due to compelling reasons, however the components of it were implemented under different initiatives such as announcing the year 2008 as the Nirogi Bal Varsh (Disease Free Year for children) in, Celebration of Golden Jubilee of formation of the Gujarat State and announcement of the golden agenda in which children's issues were incorporated. However all the three documents-ECCE policy, NPC and the Twelfth FYP mention that the state will have to develop state plans for children
- The Twelfth FYP document is ready for launch and implementation.



8 Reflections on the Advocacy process

Policy advocacy refers to advocacy tactics, strategies and initiatives which target changes to policies and legislation. These advocacy initiatives seek to establish new policies, improve existing policies or challenge the development of policies that diminish resources and opportunities for vulnerable groups of people such as children, women and youth. Policy advocacy usually seeks to engage various sectors of the government which includes: public servants, bureaucrats, political appointees, elected officials and legislators.

There are two types of advocacy: **Policy Centred Advocacy** and **People Centred Advocacy**. Policy Centred Advocacy is any activity that is directed at policy makers whereas People Centred Advocacy originates from the

people, from the community and the policy or the policy change directly affects them. CHETNA's approach to advocacy for child related policies was a Policy Centred Advocacy motivated by its commitment to protect the best interests of children and enhance the quality of their lives.

Reflections on the Policy Making Process:

- CHETNA observed that the value of rights approach in social development has been demonstrated in recent years. For example, the Supreme Court Order on the right to food has forced the government to take major initiatives such as provision of hot cooked mid-day meals in primary schools. Similarly wider acknowledgement of elementary education as a

fundamental right in the Right To Education (RTE) in 2009 and the Universalisation of ICDS attempted to reverse the long-pending neglect of young children. In the light of these experiences, CHETNA realised that there seems to be a case for more active use of the rights approach in the context of children's issues, including the survival and well-being of children under six.

- To frame and finalise a policy and design programmatic action requires political will. The MoWCD has demonstrated it by initiating the ECCE Policy. However, when the extraordinary thrust on Economic Development would be accompanied by equal emphasis on Human Development indices, the status of vulnerable groups like children and women will be automatically alleviated.
- Ownership of ECCE between the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD) has been an issue. (At national level, it is under the MoWCD, whereas in the GoG it was shifted from the Department of WCD to the Department of Primary Education and later to the Department of Higher Education). Such changes resulted in need for repeated rapport building and orientation to new officers every few months. In such a scenario, in some cases advocacy efforts lost their steam and momentum.
- Low priority to children's issues for different reasons, results in the particular Department passing the responsibility to other organisations/departments within the government framework. For example, in Gujarat, involvement of Children's University and GCERT (Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training) by the Department of Primary Education did not yield the required results.
- The Government of Gujarat's Swarnim Gujarat agenda announced on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the State (2010) and declaring the Year of 2008 as the Nirogi Bal Varsh (Disease Free Year for Children), took priority over the ECCE Policy, SPAC and NPC. Hence, at the state level, the delay in finalising the policies has been due to difference in the national and state Government's priorities. However, children's concerns were included in the Swarnim Gujarat Agenda.
- While the several rounds of Consultations with NGOs and Civil Society were extremely useful in strengthening the document, the process of collating the suggestions; often contradictory led to undue delay in finalisation of the draft policy- Officials of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Gol

9 Perspective of Child Care Specialists¹ on ECCE Policy

With a view to get an external perspective on ECCE and other child related policies, eleven renowned Child Care Specialists representing Government and Civil Society were interviewed. Their views are given below:

Importance of ECCE Policy: All except one specialist said that it is absolutely necessary to have a separate ECCE Policy since it is a vision statement of the nation on the young child. It could be the overarching guiding document for the under sixes. In other policies, issues related to young children are mentioned briefly and that too in a fragmented manner. It is for the first time that a larger and

a detailed perspective of a child below six are developed in the draft ECCE Policy.

One specialist said that in a country that has no national policy for human rights as a distinct declaration of commitment, the importance of a human rights base for any policy affecting people's status is obvious. In a

¹The Specialists interviewed were: Dr. Sreeranjana, Joint Secretary, MoWCD, Mr. Vivek Joshi, Joint Secretary, MoWCD Dr. Venita Kaul Director CEED, Ms. Farah Ahmad Abbasi Co-Convener IACB, Ms. Devika Singh FORCES, Ms. Sudeshina Sengupta Motile Creches, Dr. Adarsh Sharma former Director NIMED, Dr. Teela Mishra Researcher and Member of Governing Council of CHETNA, Ms. Indu Kapoor Founder and Director CHETNA, Ms. Parashara Former Team Member CHETNA and ECDI Consultant, Dr. Gajver Kapadia, Freelance Consultant, Development issues.

governance scenario in which basic standards of interpretation and implementation of policies, laws and programmes are regularly bypassed (whether by design or accident), a national declaration of minimum commitment and obligation is obviously necessary.

It is absolutely necessary to have a mandate for a child below six years of age with proper legislation.

“What this country needs is a clear, rights based national policy for children to succeed the 1974 policy without losing its strengths.”

One specialist was of the opinion that instead of a separate ECCE Policy, the reframed ICDS document should be strengthened. Instead of spending time and effort on drafting a new policy, appropriate mechanism should be worked out which can give results at the grass root level.

Efforts put in by the Government, NGOs and CSOs: All specialists recognized that the ECCE Policy is definitely the positive initiative of the Government of India (GoI). International awareness and pressure from NGOs perhaps galvanized the Government to initiate the policy. They also mentioned that the NGOs and CSOs were given ample space by the MoWCD in formulating and advocating for the ECCE Policy. It is for the first time that a collective effort of GOs, NGOs, CSOs and Alliances has been made wherein issues have been analyzed and tools have been developed. Also, several recommendations of NGOs and CSOs have been accepted by the Ministry.

It is for the first time that the Government and NGOs have joined hands together without many differences. All the stakeholders were actively involved in the participatory process of scrutiny of the draft policy.

The process of formulating the Draft ECCE Policy was transparent, participatory and inclusive.

One specialist expressed that Advocacy statement should be devised and advocacy should be evidence based.

Efforts Needed to Actualize the ECCE Policy: The Specialists said that the draft policy needs wider dissemination. It has been put on the website of the MoWCD. It should reach the Gram Panchayat (Self Government at the village level). The policy should receive response from the community at the grass root level.

A strong time bound plan of action needs to be worked out for effective implementation. The implementation plan will require financial and human resources, political will and accountability. Furthermore, it should be a coordinated effort among diverse stakeholders including national, state and grass root level organizations.

We need multi sectoral convergence and multi disciplinary interventions to improve the quality of Early Childhood Care. We need to strengthen capacity of the institutions working for the CHILD by creating a consortium of such institutions. ICDS Programme should be given a head start by strengthening the Early Childhood Care component.

Views about CHETNA's Advocacy Efforts: The Specialists were of the opinion that CHETNA has played a consistent, active and participatory role at the State and National levels. Its contribution as the Secretariat of Gujarat FORCES and Alliance for Rights to ECCD is also worth mentioning. CHETNA's hard work to advocate for child policies has been acknowledged by all the Specialists. CHETNA was also instrumental in bringing together various stakeholders to push the agenda of development of the child and strengthen the health and nutrition aspects. CHETNA's contribution in formulating the ECCE Policy at the Gujarat state level was also commendable.

Advocacy is a much needed instrument in the process of policy formulation and effective implementation. The process of advocacy - persuading, arguing, winning over, influencing opinion formers, and policy makers - can give much needed boost to any programme initiative.

10 Major Achievements, Analysis of the Advocacy Efforts and the Way Ahead

CHETNA's and its network partners' efforts resulted in some remarkable changes as described below:

- ECCE is recognised as a pre-requisite to further child development for the first time in the national agenda in the history of child policy making in India - an ECCE Cell has been created at the MoWCD by the Government of India (GoI)
- CHETNA's multifarious efforts for developing the ECCE Policy resulted in CHETNA being recognised as a Resource Organisation for Child Rights, especially ECCE both at national and state levels.
- Civil society efforts for promoting ECCE as a **right of children** under six (As per Article 45 of the Indian Constitution) have been initiated. CHETNA contributed as a Campaign member and was able to garner support and partnerships in this respect.
- GoI has recognised that ICDS needs to move from welfare to rights based approach and people should demand services of good quality. ICDS has been put in the Mission Mode.
- Issues related to health, nutrition and holistic development of young children have been incorporated in the Twelfth FYP. Malnutrition has been recognised as a serious issue to be urgently addressed at national as well as state level. Efforts such as initiating State Nutrition Mission have been initiated.

Analysis of the Advocacy Efforts and the Way Ahead

- CHETNA has been instrumental in creating awareness about children's issues among relevant organisations and selected stakeholders. However, creating awareness about rights of children among masses especially parents through CSOs, CBOs, NGOs and media would create greater impact and added pressure to accelerate the process of announcing the policies.

Way Ahead: Involve and inform field based NGOs, CBOs, CSOs in workshops/consultations, who in turn can reach communities.

CHETNA can also take up a vibrant ECD Centre (repositioned Anganwadi Centre) as a pilot and convert it into a model ECD Centre by contributing its expertise acquired over the years. CHETNA has a role to play in formulating the new NPAC for 2013- 2018.

- Media and internet have the capacity to increase the speed, reach and effectiveness of advocacy-related communication. Both these mediums could have been used vigorously in advocacy efforts for young child. This effort would require additional human and financial resources.

Way Ahead: If resources permit, use audio-visual and print media to transmit messages to masses as these messages have better retention. Use internet to repeatedly inform people about early childhood issues and entitlements.

- Organising and participation in Workshops and Consultations at state, national and international levels certainly help in creating awareness about a particular issue, sharing experiences and gaining a new or a different perspective. CHETNA's efforts in this regard were fruitful.

Way Ahead: For greater impact, weave in the recommendations of such Consultations in the lectures or audio- visual presentations in colleges and schools as youth are effective change agents.

- Since the elected members of the Legislative Assembly in states and Lok Sabha (lower house) and Rajya Sabha (upper house) at the Centre; remain in their position for the entire tenure, involving parliamentarians in taking up the issues in policy making forums was useful. However, often due to language constraint, asking questions in the parliament was limited. However the National Consultation in August 2012, provided an opportunity to sensitise MPs. Untiring follow up is required.

Way Ahead: It may be a useful strategy to join hands with selected MLAs and MPs who are interested in human development issues.

- Policy making is a slow process and requires patience and persuasion. Much has been achieved but much more remains to be achieved. **It also requires financial resources.** CHETNA has put in much work within the **limited resources** at its disposal.

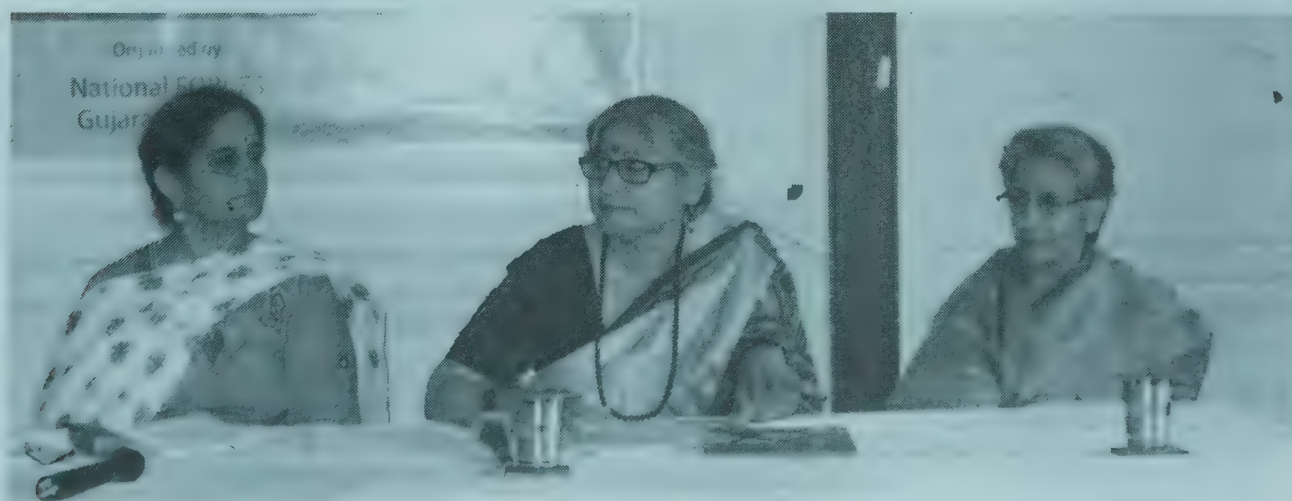
Way Ahead: Persuade the GoI and the GoG to allot adequate funding for young children's issues. However, in light of the progressive policies in place, capacity building of the concerned functionaries at all levels; state, district, block, village and urban health and development centres is an urgent need. CHETNA can take up the role of a

Resource Centre for planning strategies, design and undertake local based training programmes and learning resource materials at national as well as state levels

- Advocacy efforts of CHETNA and partners enabled the formulation of draft policies with appropriate content.

Way Ahead: NGOs like CHETNA should play a major role in persuading and supporting the government in planning operationalisation, implementation and monitoring of the child policies once the policies are announced.

"CHETNA's role in advocating for the ECCE Policy has been constructive, and thus positive and commendable. IACR commends the CHETNA initiative taken to consult and inform MPs and other influencers".



11 Conclusion

All children have equal rights to life, dignity, opportunity, health, education, participation and a safe, caring and healthy environment where they can grow and develop to their optimum potential. This will lead to a progressive and prosperous society and nation.

India's effort to achieve national progress, calls for both long-term vision and goals and more immediate targets, with constant tracking of their implementation. The persisting realities of children's status and condition demand that their survival, security, and well-being are positioned as the key indicators of whether or not development decisions and outcomes are on track. A positive beginning is made in the form of policy initiatives. The momentum, however needs to be sustained.

The Government has made some efforts and so have the NGOs and CSOs to change the conditions of the vulnerable children. Policies, Charters and Commissions have been formed. Laws have been made and amended. However, Policies and legal reforms alone cannot bring justice to the child, As Asha Bajpai, the well-known author on Child Rights has aptly put it, **A child focused culture needs to be developed. The family and society have to become aware of the rights of the child.**

An awareness campaign needs to be launched to make the stakeholders aware about child rights, Constitutional and legal remedies and the policies. The campaign must undertake initiatives at national and local levels through awareness building, networking, and child-centred advocacy. Time frame has to be worked out within which, State Governments are obliged to formulate and announce State Policies for children.

NGOs have a significant role to play in effective implementation of the Policies, monitoring the schemes and use of allotted resources. As a National level Support Organisation, CHETNA, has made significant contribution to the process of formulation of child related policies and envisages continuing its efforts towards creating scalable and replicable models by piloting approaches, capacity building and awareness generation programmes to

ensure that all children are healthy and grow to their full potential.

CHETNA envisages evolving strategies and models of health communication and convergence to reach out to marginalised communities for addressing malnutrition and reduce high rates of morbidity and mortality among young children. Through convergent action, families and communities will be empowered and systems will be strengthened for enhancing access to quality services under restructured ICDS, especially in Urban areas which is often a neglected area. CHETNA also envisages reaching out to not only children below six but also school age children who are in as well as out-of School system through working with existing programmes such as Mid-Day-Meal, SABLA/SAKSHAM, and youth for addressing mal-nutrition, gender bisased sex selection and declining sex ratio.

As per IACR's belief, the provision of all services of life-saving, life guarding and development for all children is a national obligation. Knowledge based assessment, planning, management, monitoring and improvement of such services and supports is a national duty, in which NGOs, citizens and civil society must play a responsible role. Transparency and accountability are essential, and the State's duty to ensure. They must be tracked and reported in all social audits.

Let us hope that the day will come soon when many suns will shine to make children's lives brighter.

This policy is to be given wide publicity and supported by focused advocacy measures to ensure that children's best interests and rights are accorded the highest priority in areas of policy, planning, resource allocation, governance, monitoring and evaluation and children's voices and views are heard in all matters and actions which impact their lives.

Draft National Policy for Children-2012, GoI

Annexure-A

| Child Related Policies/Provisions in India |
|---|
| Constitution of India 1950 |
| National Policy for Children 1974 |
| Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) 1975 |
| National Policy on Education 1986 |
| Ratification of UNCRC by GoI 1992 |
| National Nutrition Policy 1993 |
| National Population Policy 2000 |
| National Health Policy 2001 |
| Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All) 2001 |
| National Charter for Children 2003 |
| National Plan of Action for Children 2005 |
| National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights 2006 |
| Right to Education Act 2009 |
| Draft National ECCE Policy 2012 |
| Draft National Policy for Children 2012 |

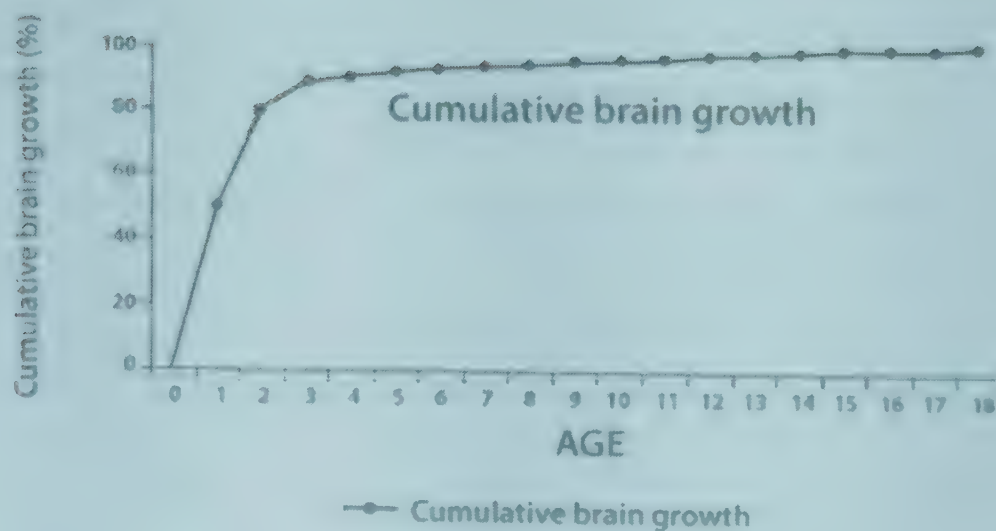
Annexure-B

Status of child survival, health and nutrition

| Indicator | NFHS 3 | NFHS 2 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| Maternal Mortality Rate | 254 per lakh (UNICEF 2005) | - |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate | 39 per 1000 | 43 per 1000 |
| Infant Mortality Rate | 57 per 1000 | 61.3 per 1000 |
| Under 5 Mortality Rate | 74.3 per 1000 | 94.9 per 1000 |
| Exclusively breastfed till six months | 46.30% | 46.90% |
| Complementary feeding after six months | 55.80% | 35% |
| Children below 2 years completely immunised | 44 per 1000 | 42 per 1000 |
| Underweight children | 46% | 47% |
| Stunted Children | 38 per 1000 | 46 per 1000 |
| Wasted Children | 19 per 1000 | 16 per 1000 |
| Children suffering from anaemia | 79.2% | 74.2% |

Annexure-C

Brain Growth Chart



Source: Karoly et.al., 1998 (10)

Annexure-D

CHETNA's Advocacy Efforts on Child related Policies

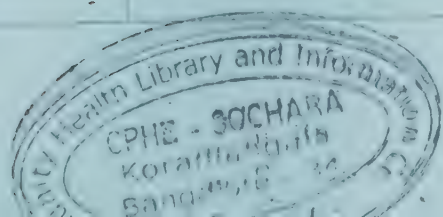
| Time line | Activity/Effort | Outcome |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| At Gujarat State Level | | |
| 2006 | A state level committee comprising Secretary of the Department of WCD, Education, representatives of GCERT, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, M.S. University of Baroda and CHETNA was constituted to draft the ECCE Policy for Gujarat. CHETNA contributed in preparing the draft and follow up. | The ECCE Policy is ready in the draft form but due to declaration of the year 2008 as the Nirogi Bal Varsh (Disease Free Year for Children), Swarnim Gujarat agenda (Golden Jubilee of the formation of the Gujarat State) and formation of the 12 th Five Year Plan, the ECCE Policy finalisation has not progressed. |
| February, 2010 | At the behest of the former Commissioner of WCD, Children's University initiated by the GoG was involved and a meeting of the Committee was called to finalise the draft of the ECCE Policy. | The meeting could not proceed as the Secretaries of WCD and Education Department were busy in the State Assembly session, when the decision of including Class VIII in the primary Education was being taken. |
| Jan-Dec, 2010 | CHETNA had eight meetings with the Secretary of the Department of WCD, Education, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning, and Commissioner of WCD, GoG to persuade them to revise and finalise the ECCE Policy and the State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC) emerging from the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC). | CHETNA contributed to the draft of ECCE Policy including the Development Component in it, thus making it Early Childhood Care Education and Development (ECCED) policy. |
| September 2010-March 2011 | Parenting Education: During 2010-11, as a Secretariat of FORCES Gujarat, CHETNA organised a six day Training of Trainers to enhance the capacities of programme coordinators and child care workers from about 10 NGOs (partners of Forum for Crèches and Child care Services (FORCES)-Gujarat network), including SEWA. Prior to the training, CHETNA contributed in developing a curriculum for the training. | Training model and learning material for Parenting education developed and field tested |
| 2011 | CHETNA was informed that ECCE was now shifted to the Department of Education from the department of WCD. CHETNA got in touch with the Commissioner of Higher Education and started the process of apprising her about the efforts made so far about the ECCE Policy, NPC and SPAC. | Change of ownership of issues related to ECCE from one Department to the other Department at State level meant further delay in revising and finalising the Policies. |
| May, 2011 | The GoG invited CHETNA to organise a state level workshop on Translating Nutrition Vision into Action improving nutritional status of women and young children of Gujarat. | Recommendations were forwarded to the concerned Departments to improve the nutrition status of pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. Need for synergetic efforts among various departments and an agency was stressed as under nutrition is a multifaceted, complex and intergenerational issue. The need for a comprehensive ECCD policy was strongly recommended. |

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| June 2011 | A state level workshop was organised by CHETNA at Ahmedabad to elicit the NGO and civil society responses in order to review the National Policy for Children-1974 and generate a renewed policy. | The process of reviewing the policy was set in motion. |
| July, 2011 | Meeting with Ms. Sangeeta Singh, the new Secretary and Commissioner, DWCD, GoG resulted in CHETNA being invited to contribute recommendations for women and development in Gujarat for the 12th Five year Plan. | CHETNA contributed a paper integrating gender, nutrition and health aspects in a life cycle approach, which was included in the State FYP. |
| April-Sept, 2011 | As a State Secretariat of Forum for Crèches and Child Care Services (FORCES), CHETNA contributed in finalising the Operational plan, focusing on building perspective and advocacy skills of the partners on ECCD as a fundamental right for young children | Finalised operational plans for FORCES. |
| November 2011 | As part of the larger plan to conduct regional workshops, CHETNA hosted the first workshop for Capacity Building of FORCES partners in Ahmedabad. | Created common understanding and perspective building on ECCE among FORCES partners. |
| Feb and May, 2012 | <p>To review ECCE policy, CHETNA co-organised a national consultation as a part of FORCES Network in Delhi on May 2, 2012 and organised a Gujarat State consultation on May 31, 2012 at Ahmedabad. The recommendations were forwarded to the MWCD.</p> <p>Towards ongoing debates and deliberations on the national Food Security Bill, CHETNA facilitated a session on nutrition concerns of adolescent girls at the Second National Convention on Children's Right to Food, organised at Bhopal in Jan 2012. Later at the western region consultation organised in Ahmedabad during Feb 7-8, 2012 presented the nutritional concerns of children, young people and women in the life cycle approach.</p> | Majority of the recommendations found place and were incorporated in the ECCE policy draft |
| AT National Level | | |
| March 2010-August 2012 | <p>Review and renewal of the National Policy for Children (NPC)</p> <p>CHETNA contributed as a National Core group member in planning and facilitating the review and renewal of the National Policy for Children (1974) through consultative process involving civil society (March-July 2010); integrated ECCED issues in the National Policy for Children (NPC)</p> <p>The process started in March 2010. From March 2010 till August 2011 there were state consultations in 19 states, children's consultations in 4 states and 2 thematic consultations. A total of 578 NGOs and civil society groups, including children provided their recommendations. Recommendations based on these consultations were forwarded to the NCPCR. Later CHETNA also contributed in regional consultation organised by the MoWCD towards finalising the NPC.</p> | <p>A draft of National Policy for Children developed through nationwide consultative process; 22 consultations were organised in various states of India and five national core group meetings.</p> <p>The collective set of policy recommendations was presented to the NCPCR on 11th August 2010.</p> <p>The final draft of the NPC is ready for approval of the Cabinet, GoI</p> |
| April, 2010 | Networking for Early Childhood Care, Education and Development: | Action plan based on the Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats |

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| | As a State secretariat of Forum for Crèches and Child Care Services (FORCES), CHETNA presented the activities and achievements in Gujarat at the Policy Committee Meeting (PCM) at Bhubneswar; Orissa. | (SWOT) conducted at PCM Developed a proposal for ECCED for FORCES at national and Gujarat level. |
| | <p>Contribution in ICDS Reforms: Invited by the Working Group of National Advisory Council (NAC) for restructuring the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), CHETNA contributed by highlighting the need for comprehensive ECCED Policy and interventions in a mission mode.</p> <p>CHETNA also contributed in national thinking on restructuring of ICDS. Discussions focused on two major issues: Infants and young children (0-3 years) and their mothers, nutrition, health and overall well-being and Early childhood and pre-school education to ensure that young children obtain the stimulation and exposure they need for cognitive development, and also inputs to experience the joy of learning from a young age.</p> <p>The major recommendation was to restructure ICDS in a Mission mode, making Anganwadi in to a Day care centre</p> | <p>The consultation proved to be an effective platform for reiterating the need for ECCED policy with focused attention on nutrition, health and developmental needs of young children Later CHETNA was invited by the Working Group members to facilitate and spearhead the process of review as well as provide recommendations for strengthening ECCD programmes with special focus on ICDS in Gujarat</p> <p>Restructured ICDS, in a Mission mode is announced.</p> <p>Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) restructured incorporating civil society recommendations; e.g. converting five percent of Anganwadi centres in to full day care centres/crèches. CHETNA envisages piloting the project in Gujarat</p> |
| November, 2010 | CHETNA organised a national Consultation on "Advocacy and Communication for the Young Child" in collaboration with the Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED), Ambedkar University at Delhi. This consultation aimed to plan advocacy and communication strategies towards ensuring effective policies and programmes for young children in india. | CHETNA was invited to contribute to a collective NGO response as part of "child constituency" group for advocating children's concerns, which have so far been sidelined by the previous plans. |
| July-August, 2011 | <p>Contacts were established with Members of Parliament. They were apprised on the nutrition, health and developmental needs of young children, the status as well as the need for the ECCED policy.</p> <p>A concept note entitled Advocating and Supporting Early Childhood Care, Education and Development-a Healthy Start in Life...was developed and shared</p> | Strategy to work with elected members evolved. The Questions, concerns and issues related to young children were raised by MPs in the monsoon session of the parliament on August 9 th 2011. The questions addressed to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare demanded information about the status of infant mortality rate, reasons for the high IMR and the schemes/programmes for young children. The questions were replied by Mr. Sudeep Bandopadhaya, the Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, furnishing the information as per the question. |

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| | CHETNA contributed in drafting Approach Paper as well as recommendations in the areas of Child Survival and Development, Nutrition, Adolescents'/Maternal health, Convergence etc. through national groups and coalitions and with the Government at Gujarat at the state level. | Ms. Indu Capoor, Director, CHETNA is recognized by the Planning Commission, Government of India as a Steering Group Member of the Women's Agency and Child Rights for the 12th Five Year Plan processes. Through this window of opportunity, CHETNA highlighted the need for ECCE policy at national and state levels and contributed in drafting recommendations for children and adolescents in the 12th FYP. |
| Dec, 2011 – May, 2012 | As a member of advocacy networks and Alliances (FORCES/IACR etc.) Contributed in planning and facilitation of consultations and meetings (Dec 9-10 and 20-21, 2011) and May 8-10, 2012 at New Delhi to review the ECCE policy, National Policy for Children (NPC) and forward recommendations to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft of national ECCE policy was made available by MWCD in the public domain for civil society review and recommendations in March 2012. A nationwide momentum was created on policy review and strengthening draft • In March 2012, the Steering Group report of the Women's Agency and Child Rights for the 12th Five Year Plan was shared, CHETNA team reviewed and forwarded comments and suggestions • In July 2012, the NPC draft was put in public domain for civil society review and recommendations. MWCD has invited civil society to forward recommendations for the National Plan of Action for Children for 2012-17. |
| August, 2011 | As a member of the NGO Child Rights Coalition, CHETNA contributed to the national review process of UNCRC implementation and spearheaded the process in Gujarat State. CHETNA also contributed a Chapter on Basic Health and Welfare . It was observed that despite stated commitment and progressive interventions like ICDS, the health surveys reveal high infant and under-five mortality. The highest mortality graph persists in the youngest age groups, the first week and first year mortality, have stagnated for years. Also the poor nutrition levels highlighting the fact that under nutrition among children under three years of age indicate the high level of food insecurity. | The Government of India (GOI) published a combined third and fourth report on national implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in August 2011. |
| Feb-May, 2012 | Co-organised a National Consultation as a part of FORCES Network in Delhi on May 2, 2012 at New Delhi and organised a Gujarat State consultation on May 31, 2012 at Ahmedabad to review ECCE policy and forwarded recommendations to the MWCD. | <p>ICDS is being restructured incorporating civil society recommendations; e.g. converting five percent of Anganwadi centres in to full day care centres/crèches. CHETNA envisages piloting the project in Gujarat</p> <p>At the National Consultation on Social</p> |

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| | | Determinants of Health at New Delhi on Feb. 27, 2012, the focus on investment in the early years of life for reducing health inequities is recognised at the national and global level. |
| Aug, 2012 | CHETNA convened a National Stakeholders' Convention to review India's progress in meeting national Health and Nutrition goals and international commitments to accelerate action to advance women's, young people's and children's rights agenda. | The recommendations were arranged under four broad concerns viz; Maternal and New born Survival, Adolescents and Young People, Nutrition and Health of Children and Food and Nutrition Security. The recommendations were sent to the members of the Parliament. There was a consensus that policies should be finalised through a wide consultative process of key stakeholders and developed through civil society participation. |
| September-October 2012 | <p>A joint meeting was organized by the Alliance for rights to ECCD and the RTE Forum to discuss the issue. The group raised concerns about a holistic package for the under sixes. As a follow up, a Drafting Committee meeting for RTE for 3-6 years old children was held at Mobile Crèches on Oct 17, 2012. Minaxi contributed in developing a framework for the report and recommendation to be sent to the CABE Comm. tee by end of October 2012.</p> <p>Towards understanding children's perception on safety and protection, a workshop was organised on September 27, 2012. Through activities and exercises, 59 children associated with five NGOs working with children from low economic group shared their fears, sense of safety and their aspirations towards safe environment.</p> <p>This was followed by a national citizens' dialogue, jointly organized by the NGO coalition and allied organizations, including CHETNA on September 28, 2012 at UN building, New Delhi. Critical risks and hazards were identified, with focus on risks to children's survival and to their safety and well-being at the start of their life and at any stage of their childhood and critical safeguards and actions that must be included in the NPAC as well as any action plans or programmes.</p> <p>As a member of the Advisory Group, Minaxi constituted by the Department of Elementary Education (DEE), National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), contributed in revamping Diploma Course in Early Childhood Care and Education at a national meeting organised on</p> | <p>Derived a framework for Recommendations for nutrition and health of young children in the context of ECCD and Right to Education and sent to Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee.</p> <p>The official process for developing the new National Plan of Action for Children (2012-17) has started. CHETNA, identified as a national core group member contributes.</p> <p>CHETNA recognised and invited to contribute in Capacity building for ECCED functionaries at national as well as state levels in the context of need emerged due to restructuring of ICDS</p> |

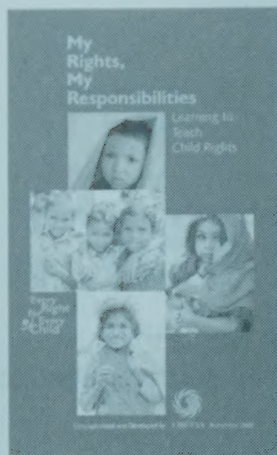


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|----------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>October 17-18, 2012. Minaxi shared CHETNA's experience of training in the area of ECCD and the material developed over the years. The course is being offered by DEE, NCERT since 2006 for in-service teacher educators.</p> <p>CHETNA contributed in final round of CSO consultation for ECCE policy organised by the MoWCD on Oct. 29, 2012</p> | Final ECCE policy draft ready to be submitted for Cabinet approval |
| November – December 2012 | <p>Indu Capoor interacted with Dr. Sreerajan and Mr. Vivk Joshi to follow up on the status of the ECCE and National policy for children.</p> <p>National Alliance for ECCD Rights of Young Children met on Dec 17, 2012. Minaxi, CHETNA contributed in discussions on strategies to ensure that the policies are announced and role of NGOs/CSOs including ECCD Alliance in getting the operationalisation of the same, including standardisation of the ECCE curriculum, Extension of Right to Education for 3-6 children and planning regional consultation for north western region for ECCD</p> | |
| International level | | |
| May 3-4, 2010 | As a Resource Group of Child-to-Child International Network, CHETNA was invited to facilitate a Workshop On Child Rights And Child centred Approaches for Team members of Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV), Dhaka, Bangladesh. CHETNA developed a Training module with special focus on disabled children | Recognition of CHETNA as a resource group for child centred health |
| Sept, 2010 | As A global leader, Ms. Indu Capoor, Founder and Director CHETNA, participated and contributed to the thinking workshops on ECCE held in Belfast and Italy in 2009 and 2010 respectively. Highlights of her presentation included the sharing of CHETNA's focused efforts in advocacy for holistic policy on ECCE and a description of the hurdles faced in reaching its goals. | Sharing of CHETNA's experiences at an international forum helped in enriching the participants' perspective on advocacy efforts in a developing country. |

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Our New Publications on Child Rights



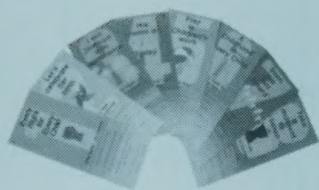
My Rights, My Responsibilities- Learning to Teach Child Rights

This Trainers' manual aims to sensitize and enable teachers, trainers and NGO functionaries. It provides basic information about child rights with participatory activities to make learning interesting. The manual comprises of seven training modules - Understanding the Child, Why Child Rights - including Indian and UN Perspective of Child Rights, Child's Right to Survival, Development, Protection and Participation, Child Rights - Programming and Advocacy. These modules can be effectively integrated in pre-service or in-service teacher training programmes and also be used for capacity building programmes. The training manual comes with a companion reader, as a Resource Book to provide material that can be used by the trainer/facilitator during the training, consisting of definitions, statistics, case studies, activities and more.



A World Without Tears

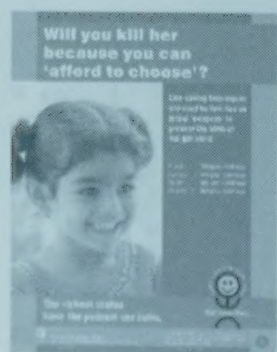
A Reader for children providing awareness on child rights, is an attractively developed story book to enable children to understand what rights are and the rights of children, while encouraging them to spread awareness about children's rights as well as initiate action in their communities. It gives them a vision of a world without tears, a world where all children are cared for and protected, have equal opportunity to grow and develop and participate actively to create a just, fair and harmonious society. The story book is illustrated with sensitive and inspiring drawings by children.



Booklets on Child Rights

A set of eight booklets for providing a comprehensive concept of Child Rights. The significant role which stakeholders like parents, government, academic institutions, media, judiciary and law enforcing agencies, paramedical professionals and the corporate sector can play in ensuring "Every Right for Every Child" is also highlighted. The booklets will be useful for all of the above stakeholders. Can be used for sensitisation and capacity building of individuals, organisations, policymakers and others who are working on Children's Rights

- Every Right for Every Child
- Play is Children's Work! Child and Play
- A Childhood to Every Child- Right to Protection
- Take a moment to Listen- Right to Being Heard
- Let's Celebrate Her Birth- Right to Life and Survival
- His Name is Today-Early Childhood Care and Education
- I will Blossom with Nurturance- Right to Development
- Seen, but not Heard- Right to Participation



Girl Child first A Poster Exhibition

Comprising of 16 posters on the rights of the girl child, focusing on the alarming discrimination and neglect faced by girls to sensitise a cross section of stakeholders - parents, adults, community leaders, doctors, lawyers and other professionals, NGO/CBO functionaries and policy and decision makers about the need to protect the rights of girl children.

*All publications are available in English and Hindi languages
Please contact: chetnapublications@gmail.com/www.chetnaindia.org*

Across nations, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programmes are of great interest to policymakers, service providers, and families. ECCD programmes are cross-cutting, involving the health, education, child welfare, and other sectors. Convergence among these is essential.



Over **30** years
1980-2010

Working with Women,
Young people and Children

Vision

CHETNA envisages an equitable society where disadvantaged communities are empowered to live healthy lives

Mission

To empower children, young people and women, especially from marginalised social groups, so that they become capable of gaining control over their own, their families' and communities' nutrition, health and wellbeing.

About CHETNA

CHETNA* meaning "awareness" in several Indian languages and an acronym for Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness, is a non-government support organisation based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Beginning its activities in 1980, CHETNA addresses issues of women's health and development in different stages of her life from a "Rights" perspective.

CHETNA supports Government and Non-Government Organisations (GO and NGOs) through building the management capacities of education/health practitioners/supervisors/ managers enabling them to implement their programmes related to children, young people and women from a holistic and gender perspective and advocate for people centred policies and Programmes.

CHETNA develops need-based training and education materials, which are widely disseminated at the State, National and International levels.

CHETNA's Information and Documentation Centre (IDC) is a rich source of information for the needs of individuals, organisations, academicians, researchers and students.

CHETNA has been identified as a Regional Resource Centre (RRC) for Gujarat State and the Union Territories of Daman, Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli to provide technical assistance to NGOs to improve Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), facilitate GO-NGO partnership, document and disseminate successful approaches and provide inputs to Government of India (GoI) to ensure effective implementation of policies.

*CHETNA is an activity of the Nehru Foundation for Development, which is a public charitable trust, registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950.



CHETNA

For Women Young people Children

Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness

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